

PELZER ALFONZO  
WILKINSBURG PA

DRAWN 2/14

71 2009 025 02831

Sculptors-P




# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Alfonzo Pelzer  
Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



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<http://archive.org/details/statuesofabraplinc>



ORIGINAL

ARTHUR SWOGER

PORTRAIT

COMMERCIAL

MOTION PICTURE

PHOTOGRAPHY

921 Wood St.,  
WILKINSBURG, PA.









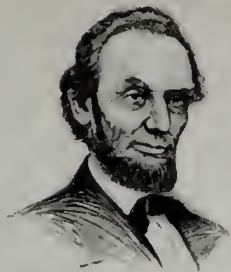












"Its name indicates its character"

# THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FORT WAYNE INDIANA

August 15, 1929

## LINCOLN

HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

LOUIS A. WARREN, DIRECTOR

## RESEARCH BUREAU

INTERPRETS THE LIFE OF LINCOLN AS REVEALED IN AUTHORIZED PUBLIC RECORDS AND ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS.

## PUBLICATION BUREAU

PREPARES HISTORICAL DATA FOR RELEASE IN BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND MAGAZINES.

## INFORMATION BUREAU

COMPILES AND INDEXES ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION BEARING ON THE SUBJECT OF LINCOLNIANA.

## EXHIBIT BUREAU

COLLECTS PORTRAITS OF LINCOLN, CURIOS, MEDALS, SOUVENIRS, ETC. FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY.

## SPEAKERS BUREAU

PROVIDES SPEAKERS FOR MEETINGS OF CIVIC CLUBS, SCHOOL GROUPS, CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, ETC.

## EDUCATIONAL BUREAU

PROMOTES CONTESTS, ARRANGES PROGRAMS, AND STIMULATES AN INTEREST IN THE STUDY OF LINCOLN'S LIFE.

## MEMORIAL BUREAU

MARKS SITES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE ASSOCIATED WITH LINCOLN, AND EMPHASIZES ANNIVERSARY OCCASIONS.

Superintendent of Schools  
Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania

My dear Sir:

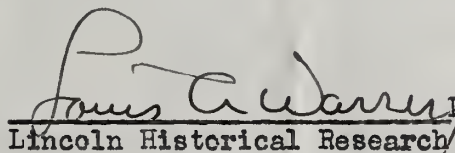
I have recently been informed that there is a heroic bronze statue of Lincoln at Wilkinsburg erected by subscriptions from the school children in 1916.

In anticipation of a booklet discussing Lincoln statues in America, I am trying to get information about all the bronze Lincolns which have been erected.

Would you kindly advise me as to the name of the sculptor and the height of the statue.

Thanking you for your trouble, I am

Respectfully yours,

 Director,  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LAW:VL

Dear Sir:

In answer to above, I wish to say that the bronze statue of Lincoln erected by subscriptions from the school children of Wilkinsburg, was procured from the W. H. Mullins Co., of Salem, Ohio. They could probably advise you of the height of the statue.

We also have in the Senior High School Building a wall plaque of Lincoln, which was manufactured at the Buckeye Iron & Brass Works, Dayton, Ohio. It is 11½" x 12" in size.

W. C. Graham, Supt.





MULLINS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION  
SALEM, OHIO

OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

October 2nd, 1929.

Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Attention - Mr. Warren

Dear Mr. Warren:-

In reply to your letter of the 20th, will say that the bronze statue of Lincoln which our company sold to the school at Wilkinsburg, Pa. was made by the old W. H. Mullins Company of Salem, Ohio. The sculpturer was Alfonso Pelzer. The statue was made of two ounce sheet bronze and was put together in sections; that is, certain parts were made and afterwards welded together. The mask for the face was an original mask taken at the death of Lincoln. The mask was purchased a great many years ago and we have no record of the party from whom we purchased said mask. The statue as we recall was 6' 4", which was approximately the same height as Lincoln.

If we can be of future service in the matter, please do not hesitate to write me regarding any matter that you may have in mind.

Very truly yours,

*Samuel J. Watkins*  
MULLINS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION

SJW:Mc



# 'Abe' Recovered From the Grave but Needs a Bodylift

By TERRY SMILEY

If bringing back the dead sounds impossible, imagine the shock of unearthing a life-size figure of Abe Lincoln from a grave.

Police in Wilkinsburg, Pa., did just that. Acting on a tip, they found their community's most-admired statue. It had been wrapped in plastic and buried in a shallow grave 30 miles away near Greensburg.

Abe was pulled from his pedestal last May 30. No one knew why. No ransom note was left.

The theft put borough residents in a daze. They couldn't imagine why anyone would want to steal their beloved Abe. Even town merchants labeled their sidewalk sale "Lincoln Daze."

IRENE Eskridge, a grandmother, set up a reward committee to raise money. As the story of Abe's disappearance spread, letters of condolences and contributions poured in. More than \$2,000 was collected.

The statue was one of seven cast in a mold by Alphonso Pelzer, a German immigrant, in 1916 at a small shop in Salem, Ohio. Only three remain standing today. Wilkinsburg grade school pupils had con-

His son had leukemia. Each week they would drive past the statue on the way to a shopping mall. Each time the father would joke, "Look! Mr. Lincoln is still trying to catch a ride!"

His son looked forward to seeing Abe. After the boy's recent death, the father

made a donation in his memory to Mrs. Eskridge's reward fund.

John Wilkins, former out before his 66th anniversary June 9, but there's one other problem. He has been in jail. Police were holding him as evidence in their case. No bond or reward mon-

ey can bail him out until justice is served.

Mrs. Eskridge says nothing could make her happier than seeing Abe back where he belongs. It may take a little longer than expected, but one of these days he'll be on his pedestal again.

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## 'Abe' Recovered From the Grave but Needs a Bodylift

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The statue was one of seven cast in a mold by Alphonso Pelzer, a German immigrant, in 1916 at a small shop in Salem, Ohio. Only three remain standing today. Wilkensburg grade school pupils had contributed \$900 in hard-earned pennies which were melted down to make the statue.

One of the most touching letters Mrs. Eskridge received was from a Pittsburgh father.

His son had leukemia. Each week they would drive past the statue on the way to a shopping mall. Each time the father would joke, "Look! Mr. Lincoln is still trying to catch a ride!" His son looked forward to seeing Abe. After the boy's recent death, the father

made a donation in his memory to Mrs. Eskridge's reward fund.

John Wilkins, former Wilkensburg mayor, says Abe needs a complete body-lift. Because heavy machinery was parked on the grave, some of Abe's fine features have been

flattened. One hand was severed.

Abe could be straightened out before his 66th anniversary June 9, but there's one other problem. He has been in jail. Police were holding him as evidence in their case. No bond or reward mon-

ey can bail him out until justice is served.

Mrs. Eskridge says nothing could make her happier than seeing Abe back where he belongs. It may take a little longer than expected, but one of these days he'll be on his pedestal again.

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Lincoln Statue Before Theft



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# Pittsburgh

MAGAZINE

Pittsburgh Magazine, 4802 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213  
(412) 622-1360

6 June 1985

Ruth Cook  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
1300 South Clinton Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801

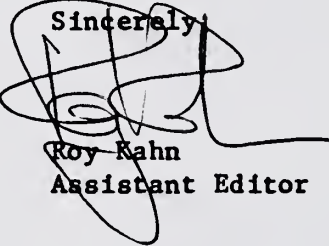
Dear Ms. Cook:

Thanks so very much for your kind assistance regarding my research into the Lincoln statues attributed to Alphonso Pelzer. I hope you find the article, "The Truth About Honest Abe," interesting.

For your records, I am also enclosing a copy of the letter furnished to me by Wooster College in which John Segesman lays out his case.

Again, thanks for your help.

Sincerely,



Roy Kahn  
Assistant Editor



# Real PITTSBURGH

## *The Truth About Honest Abe*

by Roy Kahn

**E**arly in 1916, the school children of Wilksburg, spurred on by an enthusiastic street commissioner named William C. Ewing, bought a statue of Abraham Lincoln. It was erected on June 9 at the intersection of the William Penn and Lincoln highways, and commemorated the elimination of street level railroad crossings from Wilksburg.

One year before, the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic in Boise, Idaho, bought a similar statue for the local Old Soldiers Home. In Fremont, Nebraska, in Detroit, in Wooster, Ohio, the scene was played and replayed, so that by 1921, six Lincolns had been added to the national landscape. Each one was exactly the same—Model No. 6910, a life-size rendition of The Great Emancipator in bronze, bronze-look cooper, or zinc from the W.H. Mullins Company catalog of fine metal art, Salem, Ohio.

In their own small way the statues are famous. Three stand lonely guard along the Lincoln Highway, America's first transcontinental roadway. Two were gifts to automakers Henry B. Joy, president of Packard Motor Car Company, and Henry Leland of Cadillac Motor Car Company. One was a gift to Wooster College. Each was said to be the work of German-born sculptor Alphonso Pelzer. That makes them noteworthy, says the Lincoln National Life Foundation in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which keeps track of things like Lincoln statues. For with six of his Lincolns scattered about the country, plus a seventh in Lin-



coln (now part of Middlesex), New Jersey, Pelzer holds the world record for Lincoln statues on display.

Only the record doesn't belong to Pelzer. Despite what the art books and history books say, Pelzer made only one Lincoln statue, the one in New Jersey. The rest are the work of another man, an obscure Wooster, Ohio, sculptor named John G. Segesman.

Why Segesman was forgotten by history is a mystery whose answer seems to have disappeared along with most of the documents from the

Mullins Company. It may have been because Pelzer did the first statue, and as a result, it was assumed that he did all of them. Perhaps Pelzers were easier to sell than Segesmans.

What is known for sure is that, in 1897, Pelzer was staff sculptor for the Mullins Company. That year, he made a mold and hammered out a statue of Lincoln, employing a technique similar to the one used on the Statue of Liberty. The work was sold to Silas Dewy Drake, president of the New Jersey Mutual Realty Company, who used it to commemorate the opening of Lin-

coln, New Jersey, a town he built and then served as its first mayor. Lincoln's Lincoln, the bronze-look cooper model, stood seven feet tall on 13-inch feet.

That should have been the end of the Pelzer saga, for there is no evidence that the mold was used again. Pelzer dropped out of the picture in 1902 when he left Salem and returned to Germany. Two years later, he died. After that, the Mullins Company didn't have much use for No. 6910. By the early 1900s, the Victorian architecture craze was on the decline, and the ornamental metalwork business was in a slump. People weren't buying metal Lincolns, or much of anything else.

Ever the businessman, Mullins turned his entrepreneurial attentions to other markets. According to records, he managed to sell the Mexican government 350 copper busts of president and national hero Benito Juarez, and then went on to sell the Guatemalans an equestrian statue of a president named Barrios. Available sources leave unclear which Barrios Mullins immortalized. It could have been Justo Rufino Barrios, who died leading an invasion of El Salvador, or his nephew, Jose Maria Reina Barrios, who was assassinated while in office.

Then in 1913 there was a ripple in the decorative metal market. Miami Beach developer Carl G. Fisher, Henry Joy, and a collection of magnates from the budding auto industry announced a plan to help popularize the automobile. They decided to pioneer a roadway from New York to San Francisco. It was called the Lincoln Highway and their group, the Lincoln Highway Association, spent millions of dollars building and promoting it. Mullins, it ap-





## REAL PITTSBURGH

pears, saw the heightening Lincoln fever as an opportunity. He instructed John Segesman, who had replaced Pelzer as company sculptor, to make a new Lincoln mold. When it was finished, the new version bore a striking resemblance to the old one. Both versions had Lincoln's left hand grasping a scroll with "Proclamation of Emancipation" written across it. Both Lincolns wore vests with six buttons. Both wore overcoats with two buttons on the back. But in other details the statues were different. Pelzer's Lincoln was seven feet tall; Segesman's was a life-size 6 feet 4 inches. Pelzer's was rich in detail, from the wrinkles in the "Emancipation" scroll to creases in the trousers. Segesman's was comparatively plain.

What scant evidence remains from the ensuing sculpture promotion suggests that the Mullins Company told

the world that the Segesman was actually the Pelzer. In an October 2, 1929, letter to Louis A. Warren, founder of the Lincoln Library in Fort Wayne, Samuel J. Watkins, writing for Mullins Manufacturing, reported that the Wilkesburg Lincoln was a "bronze statue ... made by the old W.H. Mullins Company of Salem, Ohio. The sculpturer (sic) was Alfonso Pelzer.... The statue as we recall was 6'4", which was approximately the same height as Lincoln."

The statue wasn't bronze and it wasn't by Pelzer, but no one seemed to notice. So the myth continued uncontested, except for a plaintive cry from Segesman on March 25, 1948. On that day, in the *Wooster (Ohio) Daily Record*, he took issue with an article by F. Lauriston Bullard on the Pelzer family of Lincolns. Six of the seven "Pelzer" statues were his, Segesman wrote the editor.

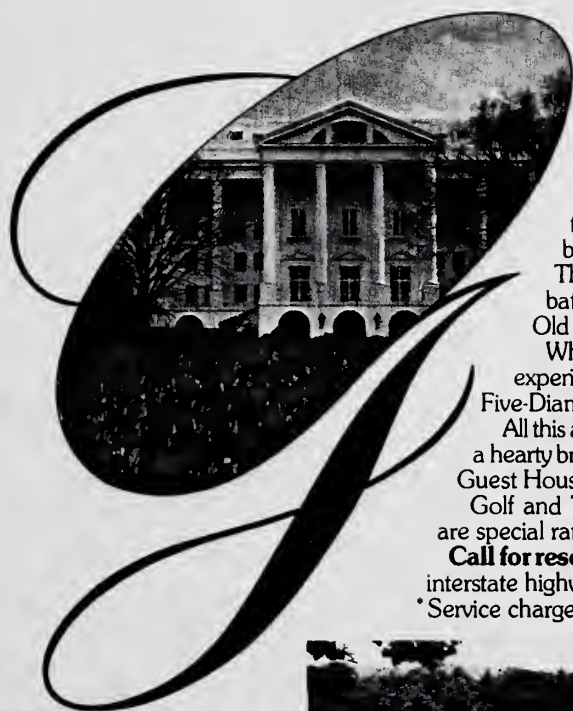
And after describing how he replaced Pelzer in 1899, the sculptor explained, "In 1915 I got orders to make a life-size model of Abraham Lincoln. I copied the face from a plaster mask that was sent from Washington, D.C. There was no beard, the eyes blank spots. These 'missing parts' I copied from an oil painting." Pelzer's statue, he added, was done from "photos and other pictures."

A copy of Segesman's letter made its way into the files of Wooster College, but the world of art history did not hear of correction. It had long ago forgotten Segesman.

In Wilkesburg, not only the artist but the statue itself faded into obscurity. For years it stood neglected at the highway junction, remembered only by a few borough diehards. Then, on May 30, 1981, it was again catapulted into spotlight when thieves ripped Lincoln's body

from his feet and carried him away. Borough residents organized a reward fund for Lincoln's return. They even contemplated having a copy made of what they thought was the original, the Pelzer in New Jersey. Had they followed that option, someone would probably have noticed that the two statues were different. But no copy was ever made. The following March, the statue was recovered from a shallow grave under a tractor frame, where it had been stashed for about nine months. Its legs were crushed, its face disfigured, its right hand severed.

It cost the community \$10,000, but the statue was repaired and stands again, which is more than Wooster College can say. The college's Lincoln was stolen too, ripped from its feet just like Wilkesburg's. But the Wooster Lincoln is in a store-room now, lying on its back.



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October 11, 1994

Jim Eber  
The Lincoln Museum  
P. O. Box 7838  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801-7838

Dear Jim,

Thank you for returning my phone call and for sending information about Alfons Pelzer. John Segesman's letter to the editor of the Wooster Daily Record is most interesting. Thank you especially for locating and sending that text.

The part of the article "Real Pittsburgh" (Pittsburgh, June 1985 p. 14) is also very interesting; I would like to have the entire article as well as a copy of the October 2, 1929 letter to Louis A. Warren from Samuel J. Watkins of Mullins Manufacturing regarding the Wilkinsburg Lincoln mentioned in the article. (Copies of correspondence and articles related to the "Pelzer" Lincolns are of interest to me; not knowing the volume of such material in your museum's collection I cannot judge whether I am asking too much if I request copies of all such material -- please let me know if such copying would be possible, and what the charge would be.)

I enclose \$2 cash in payment for the two photocopies you sent, the remainder of the Pittsburgh article and, I hope, the Watkins letter.

A copy of the citation that led me to contact your museum is enclosed. I received it from the Minnesota Historical Society; however, the staff member I corresponded with is unable to identify the source. In footnote number 5 the unknown author cites "**Files of Lincoln National Life Foundation**" as the source for the statement: "**Alphonso Pelzer died in 1904.**" I am hopeful that you will be able to locate the source of this information in your files, and that the date and place of Pelzer's death -- or at least some documentation of his death in 1904 -- will come to light. The foundation's files are also cited (footnote number 9)







as the source of information regarding the Pelzer Lincoln in Lincoln, New Jersey. Though I am interested in information about that monument, the information about Pelzer's death is more important to me as I try to learn something of his training and work in Germany before he came to America, and his work, if any, after he returned.

I will, of course, be delighted if you or someone else at the museum can identify the publication from which the enclosed information was photocopied; it seems reasonable to assume it is from a book or magazine article about Lincoln statues. I do not recognize the format; perhaps you do. (Obviously, It was written after May, 1948 [see footnote number 8]). I wish I could provide a better quality photocopy, but the one sent me is no better.

Perhaps the museum's collection includes information about an eighth "Pelzer" [Segezman?] Lincoln -- erected in St. Cloud, Minnesota in 1918. If not, see Moira F. Harris' Monumental Minnesota (copyright 1992, Pogo Press, Inc.), page 27-9.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Karen Deller

P. S. Enclosed is a photocopy of an illustration of the statue of Christopher Columbus modelled by Pelzer in 1892. (The illustration appears in W. H. Mullins 1896 catalog, but without the words "Designed by Alfons Pelzer.")

encs. (2 photocopies, \$2 cash)



# HE BELONGS TO THE AGES

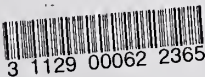
THE STATUES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Donald Charles Durman, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Foreword

By

Louis A. Warren, Litt. Dr.  
Director, Lincoln National Life Foundation



EDWARDS BROTHERS  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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## ALPHONSO PELZER

—1904.

About sixty years ago, the brothers Hubert and Alphonso Pelzer, came to America from Germany and settled at Salem, Ohio, where they lived for a number of years. It has been said that they were experienced artists,<sup>1</sup> but nothing is known of their early training. They were probably wood-carvers.

In Salem they established the Pelzer Art Works where they produced church altars, pulpits and other carved church furniture; hotel and office furniture and interior furnishings and finish for residences of plain or carved wood; also statuary. They were said to have employed the best designers, draughtsmen and craftsmen.<sup>2</sup> The statuary, produced by the Pelzer Art Works, was probably made of plaster for interior use only.<sup>3</sup>

Later the Pelzer brothers founded a little school of sculpture in Salem which continued until the elder brother, Hubert, died and Alphonso returned to Germany.<sup>4</sup> Alphonso Pelzer died in 1904.<sup>5</sup>

After the death of Hubert, Alphonso sold his business and shop to William H. Mullins, the son of the founder of the concern now widely known as The Mullins Manufacturing Corporation. At that time William H. Mullins operated a small foundry. Alphonso Pelzer took a job in the foundry<sup>6</sup> where he worked for several years.

The Mullins firm had made small ornamental statues since 1872. It soon became an important part of the business and continued so until 1917 and was not entirely discontinued until 1928. The Mullins statues were made from sheet metal, copper, bronze and zinc by a hot stamping method by which it was possible to make them much cheaper, lighter and faster. It was while in the employ of the Mullins Company that Alphonso Pelzer designed his statue of Lincoln. It was then made in bronze by the Mullins process. In all, seven of these statues were made. Pelzer is said to have used a death mask furnished by the government.<sup>7</sup> Since no death mask of Lincoln was made it seems likely that the Mills mask was used. The resemblance of the face of the Pelzer "Lincoln" to the Mills mask is rather striking.

It is probable that several of the Pelzer bronze statues were made by the Mullins Company from Pelzer's original model after the sculptor returned to Germany and even after his death.

The first of the Pelzer bronze Lincolns was erected in what was then the village of Lincoln, New Jersey. Lincoln was later incorporated in Middlesex Borough. The statue stands in a small park on Lincoln Boulevard. Mr. Silas Dewey Drake, the first Mayor of Lincoln, is credited with the erection of this statue.<sup>8</sup> Mr. Drake was president of the New Jersey Mutual Realty Company which developed the village. He had been a great admirer of Lincoln and named the village in his honor. Some of the money for purchase of the statue was raised by the school children of the community.<sup>9</sup> There has been some confusion as to the date of dedication. Laying of the cornerstone of the base of the statue took place on February 12, 1898 and the dedication on May

30 of the same year. The inscription, in raised block letters, on the base reads: WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE/WITH CHARITY FOR ALL/WITH FIRMNESS IN THE RIGHT/AS GOD GIVES US TO SEE THE RIGHT.

The Packard Motor Car Company of Detroit, Michigan, acquired one of the Pelzer Lincolns about 1914. It was presented to Mr. Henry B. Joy by William H. Mullins. Mr. Joy was at that time president of the Packard Motor Car Company and also of the Lincoln Highway Association which had been organized to promote the building of the Lincoln Highway. The initial support for the organization came chiefly from the automobile and accessory manufacturers. The Packard statue was placed in the visitor's lobby of the Packard Administration Building, where it remained until 1919 when it was placed in storage because of building alterations. It remained in storage, more or less forgotten, until at the suggestion of Mr. W. C. Greany, plant protection engineer of the Packard Company and also Scout Master of an active Boy Scout troop, the statue was given to the Detroit Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. It was placed in a beautiful setting in the Scouts' Camp Brady, near Waterford, Oakland County, Michigan, and was dedicated as an official Lincoln Pilgrimage Shrine on July 25, 1936.

In April, 1946, the site of Camp Brady was sold and the statue removed to the Howell Scout Reservation near Brighton, Michigan, Livingston County, where it is housed temporarily in the magnificent new lodge. It is planned to locate the statue in an inspirational environment somewhere on the four hundred sixty acre reservation where Scouts may retire to meditate. It is hoped that some service club or other organization will finance the placing of the statue in a suitable out-of-doors setting.<sup>10</sup>

The third Pelzer statue was presented to the State of Idaho by the ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, to be placed in front of the Old Soldiers' Home in Boise, where it was dedicated on February 12, 1915. The Idaho Historical Society is unable to supply any other pertinent data regarding the statue or any information concerning the dedicatory exercises.<sup>11</sup> On the sandstone pedestal for this statue is a bronze plaque containing the Gettysburg Address.

Another Pelzer "Lincoln" was given to Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio, in 1915 by Mr. James Mullins, the father of William H. Mullins, who at that time lived in Wooster. It was placed in the Quadrangle in front of Kirke Hall and was moved to its present location south of the Chapel in 1923. At the dedication exercises on October 1, 1915, an address by Judge Charles Kirchbaum of Canton, Ohio, a member of the class of 1883, was the principal event.<sup>12</sup>

The statue stands on a gentle slope and is backed by the ivy-covered wall of the college chapel. On the base in front is a bronze plaque inscribed: LINCOLN/WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE/WITH CHARITY FOR ALL/WITH FIRMNESS IN THE RIGHT. AS GOD

GIVES US TO SEE THE RIGHT. THIS STATUE WAS PRESENTED TO THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER JUNE-1915/BY JAMES MULLINS.

On the rear of the base is a small plate which reads, "H. A. MULLINS CO., SALEM, OHIO."

It is rather incongruous that a statue representing the President holding in his hand a scroll said to represent the Emancipation Proclamation should be inscribed with a passage from the Second Inaugural Address.

On June 9, 1916, Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania was the scene of the next unveiling of a Pelzer statue of Lincoln, in the presence of about fifty surviving veterans of the Civil War and more than a thousand school children, whose gifts had made possible the erection of the statue. It was presented to Wilkesburg on behalf of the children by Mr. J. L. Allison, superintendent of the Wilkesburg schools, and Mr. J. M. Lindsay, President of the borough council. The statue stands at the junction of Johnston Street and Penn Avenue.

Reverend George Taylor, Jr., delivered the dedicatory address in which he characterized Lincoln as the best ruler the world had ever known and declared that Lincoln's principles are becoming more and more the ideals of the world.<sup>13</sup>

Another Pelzer "Lincoln" now stands in Detroit, Michigan in front of the main entrance of the Lincoln-Mercury Division of the Ford Motor Company. This statue was erected at the request of Mr. Henry Leland, founder of the Cadillac Motor Car Company and later of the Lincoln Motor Car Company. Mr. Leland, an engineer, was a great admirer of Lincoln and had patterned his own life after Lincoln's. It is said that the statue, placed with tender loving care, faces the true magnetic south, precisely as determined by the great engineer, Leland.<sup>14</sup> This statue was dedicated February 13, 1919. It was unveiled at 11:00 A. M. by Wilfred C.

Leland, Jr. Reverend Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis spoke briefly. Then followed a dinner for five hundred employees of the Lincoln Motor Car Company at which addresses were made reviewing the part played by the company in developing and manufacturing "Liberty" motors for use in the aeroplanes of the United States Army in World War I. Dr. Newell Hillis again spoke. He emphasized the scantiness of the facilities available to Lincoln for training himself and of the greatness of his achievements in the face of such obstacles.

Among the guests at this dinner were Mr. William H. Mullins, who had been a business associate and close personal friend of Henry M. Leland and who had presented the Lincoln statue to Mr. Leland.<sup>15</sup>

The base of this statue carries the simple inscription: LET MAN BE FREE.

The seventh and last Pelzer "Lincoln" to be erected was dedicated at Fremont, Nebraska. It stands in City Park. The pedestal on which the statue rests, bears a bronze plaque on which the Gettysburg Address is inscribed.

The Pelzer statue depicts Lincoln holding a scroll on which the words "Proclamation of Emancipation" are inscribed. The variety of inscriptions on the bases of the various replicas would indicate that those responsible for placing the statues overlooked the conception the sculptor was trying to convey. Only the base of the Detroit statue carries words having any relationship with "emancipation".

<sup>13</sup>The Lincoln On The Campus, by F. Lauriston Bullard, Wooster Alumni Bulletin LXIII, No. 3, February 1948. <sup>14</sup>Woods, History of Salem, 1898. <sup>15</sup>Same as 1. <sup>16</sup>Indicator, Youngstown, Ohio, February 28, 1932. <sup>17</sup>Files of Lincoln National Life Foundation. <sup>18</sup>Same as 1. <sup>19</sup>The Mullins Story, The Mullins Corporation, 1947. <sup>20</sup>Courier-News, Plainfield, New Jersey, May 29, 1948. <sup>21</sup>Files of Lincoln National Life Foundation. <sup>22</sup>William F. Church, Assistant Scout Executive, Detroit Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. Personal communication. <sup>23</sup>Mrs. Gertrude McDevitt, Idaho Historical Society. Personal communication. <sup>24</sup>Same as 1. <sup>25</sup>Pittsburg Press, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, June 9, 1916. <sup>26</sup>Program of Lincoln Day Ceremony, February 12, 1948. Lincoln Motor Car Company. <sup>27</sup>The Lincolnian Vol. 1, No. 4, February 1917.

*Lincoln statues by Alphonso Pelzer:*

1. bronze, made or dedicated May 30, 1898, Lincoln, New Jersey
2. " " " " 1914, Haskell Scout Reservation, Brighton, Michigan
3. " " " " Feb 12, 1915, Old Soldier Home, Boise Idaho
4. " " " " Oct 15, 1915, College, Wooster, Wooster, Ohio
5. " " " " June 9, 1916, Lincoln & Penn Highways, Wilkesburg, Penn
6. " " " " Feb 13, 1919, Lincoln-Mercury Div Ford Motor Co, Detroit Mich
7. " " " " 1924, Fremont, Neb.





Columbus

5124. 9 feet high

Made for World's Columbian Exposition,  
Chicago

Designed by Alfons Pelzer )

From The Collection Of  
Karen Deller  
Peoria, Illinois

Illustration published (without ) in 1896 catalog, W. H. Mullins



1502 W. Barker  
Peoria IL 61606

(309) 674-1374

March 19, 1995

Jim Eber  
The Lincoln Museum  
P. O. Box 7838  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801-7838

Dear Mr. Eber,

I am disappointed not to have received a reply to my October 11, 1994 letter to you; I hope you received the letter and the \$2 cash I enclosed (in payment for the two photocopies you had sent me and copies I requested in my October 11 letter), as well as the photocopy of an illustration of the statue of Christopher Columbus copied from W. H. Mullins' 1896 catalog.

Since writing to you I have obtained a copy of the full "Real Pittsburgh" article by Roy Kahn so I no longer require a copy of that. I do, however, still want a copy of the October 2, 1929 letter to Louis A. Warren from Samuel J. Watkins of Mullins Manufacturing regarding the Wilkinsburg Lincoln statue mentioned in Mr. Kahn's article.

Also since writing to you I have identified the source of the text that cites "Files of Lincoln National Life Foundation" as the source for the statement "Alphonso Pelzer died in 1904." A photocopy of the text is enclosed; it is from He Belongs to the Ages, The Statues of Abraham Lincoln by Donald Charles Durman with a foreword by Louis A. Warren. I am hopeful that this information will make it possible for you to locate the source of the information regarding Alphonso Pelzer's date of death and to send me a copy of, or information about, the source.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Karen Deller





TM

*The Lincoln Museum*  
1300 South Clinton Street P.O. Box 7838  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801-7838  
219 455 3864  
~~Part of Lincoln National Monument~~

March 29, 1995

Karen Deller  
1502 W. Barker  
Peoria, IL 61606

Dear Karen:

Enclosed are the two items which you requested in your March 19th letter. Thank you for the items which you have sent us in connection with Pelzer.

Our museum is closed for research and for visits at this time as we are preparing for the new museum to open in October.

Enclosed is some information about the new museum.

Yours very truly,  
THE LINCOLN MUSEUM

James E. Eber

Enclosures

*Joan L. Flinspach*  
Director





PELZER, ALFONZO  
WILKINSBURG, PA

DRAUSE, ALAN

SCULPTORS-P

